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Baker-Polito Administration Announces Construction Will Begin to Complete Northern Strand Community Trail

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BOSTON — The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, along with the Cities of Everett, Lynn, Malden, and Revere and the Town of Saugus announced today that construction on remaining sections of the Northern Strand community trail will begin. The completed project will result in a transportation and recreation corridor of about 11.5 miles from the Mystic River to the Lynn shoreline, connecting the communities of Everett, Malden, Revere, Saugus, and Lynn. Through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs’ [Gateway City Parks program](/service-details/gateway-city-parks-program) (</service-details/gateway-city-parks-program>), the Baker-Polito Administration has invested more than \$15 million to design, permit, and construct the Northern Strand.

“The Baker-Polito Administration has made expanding access to the Commonwealth’s outdoor resources a priority, and the Northern Strand is a terrific example of that work in action,” said **Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides**. “Trails connect communities, offer recreational and transit opportunities while providing significant environmental benefits, and we are proud to support this project, which will provide greater mobility and access to Massachusetts’ great outdoors for residents in these Gateway Cities.”

“Now, more than ever, trails such as the Northern Strand can provide an important travel corridor for the public to get to destinations,” **said Transportation Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack.** “The Northern Strand Community Trail will encourage more walking and bicycling for people trying to reach retail areas, schools and other locations. This project is an example of how we can achieve the visions and goals set forth in the State Bicycle and State Pedestrian Plans. We have to give more people more choices for travel and this trail does that.”

The \$13.7 million construction contract has been awarded to R. Zoppo Corporation through a public bidding process. Construction operations have begun with field work starting in early 2020, and full construction activities will commence in early spring. In addition to constructing remaining sections of the trail, R. Zoppo Corp will make additional improvements to existing sections. The construction work will be observed in the field by Stantec, with Construction Administration services being provided under the leadership of Brown Richardson + Rowe, which was - together with Stantec - hired by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to design and permit the Northern Strand on behalf of the five communities.

Construction crews, fencing, and signage along the trail corridor will be visible during the construction process, which may limit access at times. Temporary trail closures are possible in order to accommodate the logistics of various work activities. Construction plans will prioritize public safety during heavy construction while balancing opportunities to maintain public access to portions of the trail where possible. The contract is being administered by the City of Revere on behalf of all five communities. Project updates and projected work schedules will be shared with the public via the City of Revere website and social media outreach.

“I am excited to see that we are one step closer towards the expansion of the Northern Strand Community Path through Lynn becoming a reality,” **said Lynn Mayor Thomas M. McGee.** “The realization of this project has been a collaborative effort throughout the years between state and local officials, community groups and residents. I look forward to the day in the very near future when our residents can enjoy this family-friendly recreational path.”

“The Northern Strand Community Trail is not only a wonderful recreational escape for people in the densely-populated cities north of Boston, its completion will provide an important component of alternative transportation as the region addresses vehicular traffic congestion on the north shore,” **said Revere Mayor Brian Arrigo**. “The extension fulfills the dream of a ‘Bike to the Sea’ link from Boston to the seashore. The trail will complement the new development happening in Revere and other North shore communities and contribute to healthy lifestyles that benefit everyone. Intrepid commuters may choose to ride a bike from the North Shore into Boston—instead of sitting in traffic. For almost all of the way into Boston, the Northern Strand Community Trail will provide a scenic alternative path to their destination.”

“Malden greatly appreciates the work and investment being made by the Governor’s Gateway City Parks team that will double the paved length of the Northern Strand Trail and fully realize the vision of the five communities and the Commonwealth to connect our neighborhoods to our waterfronts, schools, parks and businesses and beyond via a bike and pedestrian trail,” **said Malden Mayor Gary Christenson**.

“We are excited to progress into the construction phase of this project, bringing us one step closer to providing safer, more secure pathways for residents and visitors to use and enjoy,” **said Saugus Town Manager Scott Crabtree**. “We are proud to move forward with this design that incorporated feedback from residents which was gathered during two public meetings. During the meetings, members of the public had multiple opportunities to learn about the project, ask questions, and share ideas. I would like to thank Governor Baker, Lieutenant Governor Polito, and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for their support of this important regional initiative. I would also like to commend the Cities of Revere, Malden, Lynn, and Everett for their dedication in turning this multi-community effort into a reality. In addition, I would like to thank all of the Town’s volunteers who contributed their ideas and suggestions, which strengthened the community vision for this important recreational staple.”

“The Northern Strand, and in particular the Revere and Saugus portions along the Rumney Marsh, is a simply magnificent trail that offers natural beauty in an otherwise urban setting,” **said State Representative RoseLee Vincent (D-Revere)**. “I thank the Baker-Polito Administration, the collaboration among Revere, Saugus, Lynn and Everett, as well as Bike

to the Sea for making this come to fruition. The enhancements in Revere and the completion of the Saugus-Lynn parts of the trail will be a welcome project to our communities.”

“This is great news for Lynn. The Northern Strand Community Path is a great example of what can be achieved when all stakeholders work together to turn vision into reality,” **said State Representative Peter Capano (D-Lynn)**

“Our parkways and open space are natural gems of the Commonwealth. Weaving together these five Gateway Cities with outdoor, recreational space will benefit this entire region,” **said State Senator Joe Boncore (D-Winthrop)**. “Expanding the Northern Strand Community Trail also provides opportunities to walk and bike rather than sitting in traffic; another step to alleviating congestion in this area.”

“This multi-community project is a huge environmental and recreational win that will benefit the entire North Shore,” **said State Senator Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn)**. “While much focus has been put on the significant development taking place in the area, it is important to highlight the access to open space and the transformation of this trail.”

“The extension of the Northern Strand Community Trail to the Lynn shoreline is a great example of what strong collaboration amongst state, local, and community leaders can accomplish,” **said State Representative Dan Cahill (D-Lynn)**. “The completion of the Northern Strand will bring many benefits to residents North of Boston including access to open space, transit, and recreation.”

“We’re thrilled to see 27 years of our devoted work and cooperative efforts with countless local governments and organizations finally reaching fruition,” **said Bike to the Sea Executive Director Yuriy Lojko**. “Bike to the Sea, Inc. began dreaming about a safe biking route to the beach, but we’re ending up with something even more important – a vibrant mixed-use community path with recreation and transportation benefits to all people north of Boston. We look forward to the completion of this very exciting step in expanding Boston’s off-road community path network.”

“We at the Solomon Foundation were pleased to be a small but catalytic part of this effort to connect together five cities and towns and in the process to unlock access to our

natural legacy of rivers, marshes and beaches,” **said Solomon Foundation Executive Director Herb Nolan.** “With help from the Barr Foundation we were able to partner with Bike to the Sea, Inc. and with the City of Lynn in advocacy, planning, and early design. Kudos to the many leaders involved from the grass roots to the governor’s office who came together to make this quarter century vision a reality.”

The investment of more than \$15 million by Energy and Environmental Affairs to design, permit, and construct the Northern Strand recognizes the importance of this trail corridor to the five communities while building upon a key Baker-Polito Administration initiative. In 2018 Governor Baker and Lt. Gov. Polito established an Interagency Trails Team, which is led by the Governor’s office and is composed of staff from EEA, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The purpose of the team is to help develop a unified vision for a trails network and translate that into strategic investments, policy innovations to facilitate development of trails, and shared partnerships with municipal partners. The Northern Strand Community Trail project is a direct result of the group’s “one team, one plan, one vision” approach to advance multi-use trails across the Commonwealth.

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